

Duddington (Stair)
820 17th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

HABS No. DC-8

HABS
D.C.
WASH
122-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Washington, D. C.
Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
Delos H. Smith, District Officer
1707 Eye St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

THE DUDDINGTON HOUSE

Washington, D. C.

Owner: Daniel Carroll.

Date of Erection: Late Eighteenth Century.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Unknown.

Present Condition: Demolished.

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Probably brick with stone and wood trim.

Other Existing Records: Unknown.

Additional Data: (See following pages)

THE DUDDINGTON HOUSE

Washington, D. C.


The Carroll estate very nearly covered all that part of Washington known as Capitol Hill, and was called Duddington manor. Daniel Carroll was a gentleman of culture and high social standing in Maryland. He had been a delegate to the Philadelphia Convention that framed the Federal Constitution, and a member of the First Congress of the United States. He was a brother of the Rt. Rev. John Carroll, the first Catholic bishop of Baltimore, who founded the great college of the Jesuits, at Georgetown, and was a cousin of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. As the Capitol was to be located adjacent to his estate, he believed that section would become the most desirable part of the city, and immediately demanded exorbitant prices for building-lots. Speculators, possessed with the same idea, bought a number of his acres, largely with "promises to pay"; and Stephen Girard, the richest man in Philadelphia in those days, even offered Carroll \$200,000 for a certain portion of his estate, but the offer was refused, five times the sum being demanded. The high prices for lots on Capitol Hill compelled many who wished land for the erection of houses and stores to settle in the northern and western parts of the city, and the tide of population rapidly turning that way, forever decided the fate of the eastern quarter. The city developed on its northwestern side, which today is the most populous and fashionable section.

Carroll's dream of great wealth was never realized. At his death he was in embarrassed circumstances, and his estate for a long time after was encumbered with heavy obligations. Recently a portion of the Carroll tract, upon which his descendants had paid \$16,000 in taxes during the past eighty years, keeping its possession so long in hope of an advantageous sale, was finally disposed of for \$3,600. The spacious "Duddington House," erected in the early days of Washington for the residence of the Carroll family, still remains on North Carolina Avenue, southeast, in a good state of preservation.

An interesting story is told of this ancient brick mansion. Shortly after the streets of the city were marked out strictly in accordance with L'Enfant's plan, Daniel Carroll, who was one of the commissioners, assumed the right to begin the erection of his house in the middle of New Jersey Avenue, near the Capitol grounds. L'Enfant vigorously protested against its location, as it would close the avenue and destroy the symmetry of the general plan of the city; but his protests not being heeded, he gave orders one

morning to his assistant to demolish the structure. Carroll hurried to a magistrate, obtained a warrant and stopped the demolition before it had proceeded very far. That night, when L'Enfant returned to the city from Acquia Creek, where he was working busily getting out sandstone for the new Capitol, he was much chagrined to find his orders unfulfilled. He vowed the house should come down, and, organizing a gang of laborers secretly, he took them quietly up the hill after dark, and set them at work. By sunrise, not a brick of the obnoxious dwelling was left standing. Carroll was very indignant at this arbitrary act, and made complaint to the President, who ordered the reconstruction of "Duddington House," precisely as it was before, but, very wisely, not in the middle of New Jersey Avenue. This house was the first fine one erected in the city. It is surrounded by a high brick wall, enclosing grounds full of majestic trees, and even now, in its partially dilapidated condition, shows considerable of its former elegance.

The above is a quotation from "Picturesque Washington" by Joseph West Moore. Published at Providence, R. I. by J. A. & R. A. Reid, Publishers, 1888 - Pages 30 and 31.

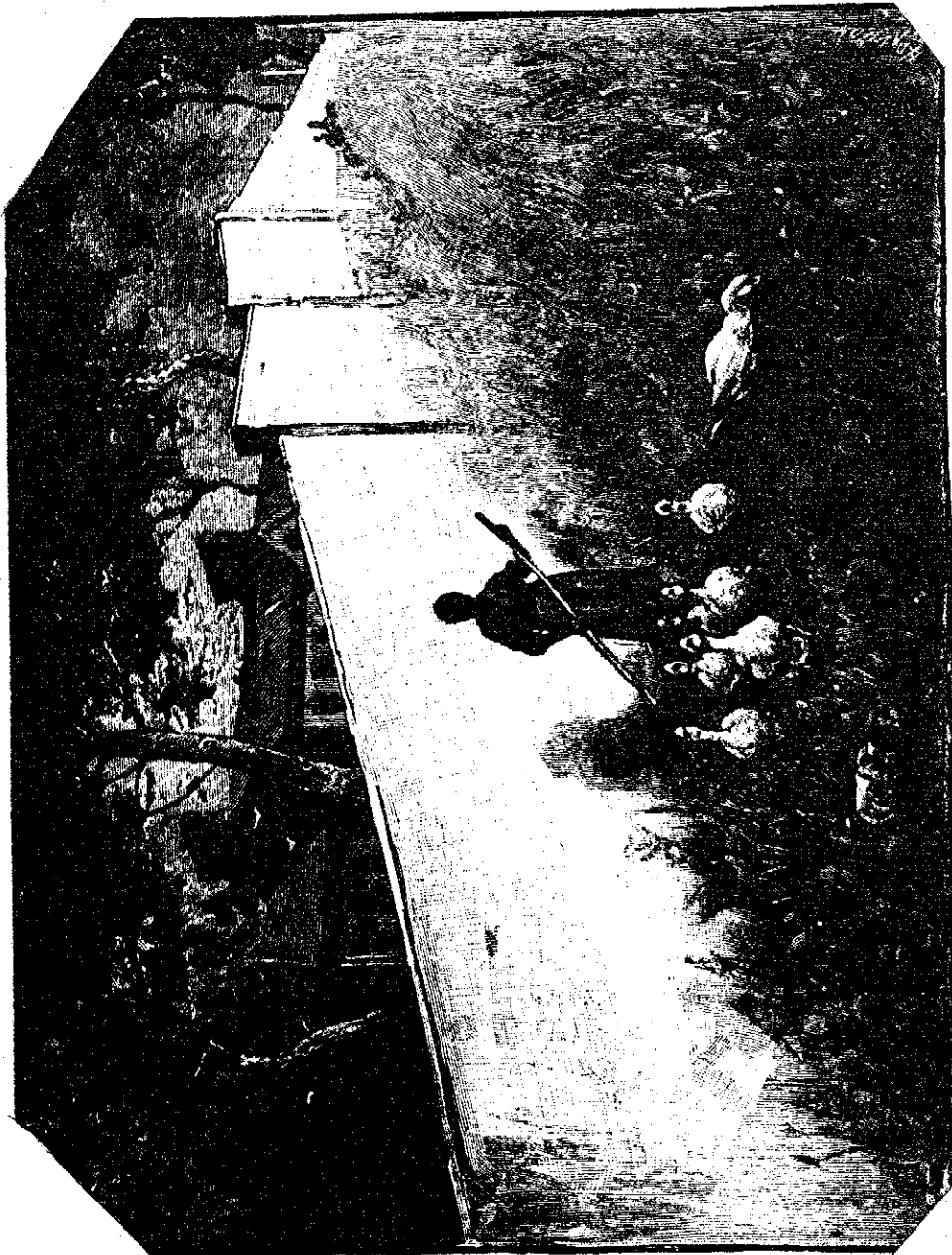


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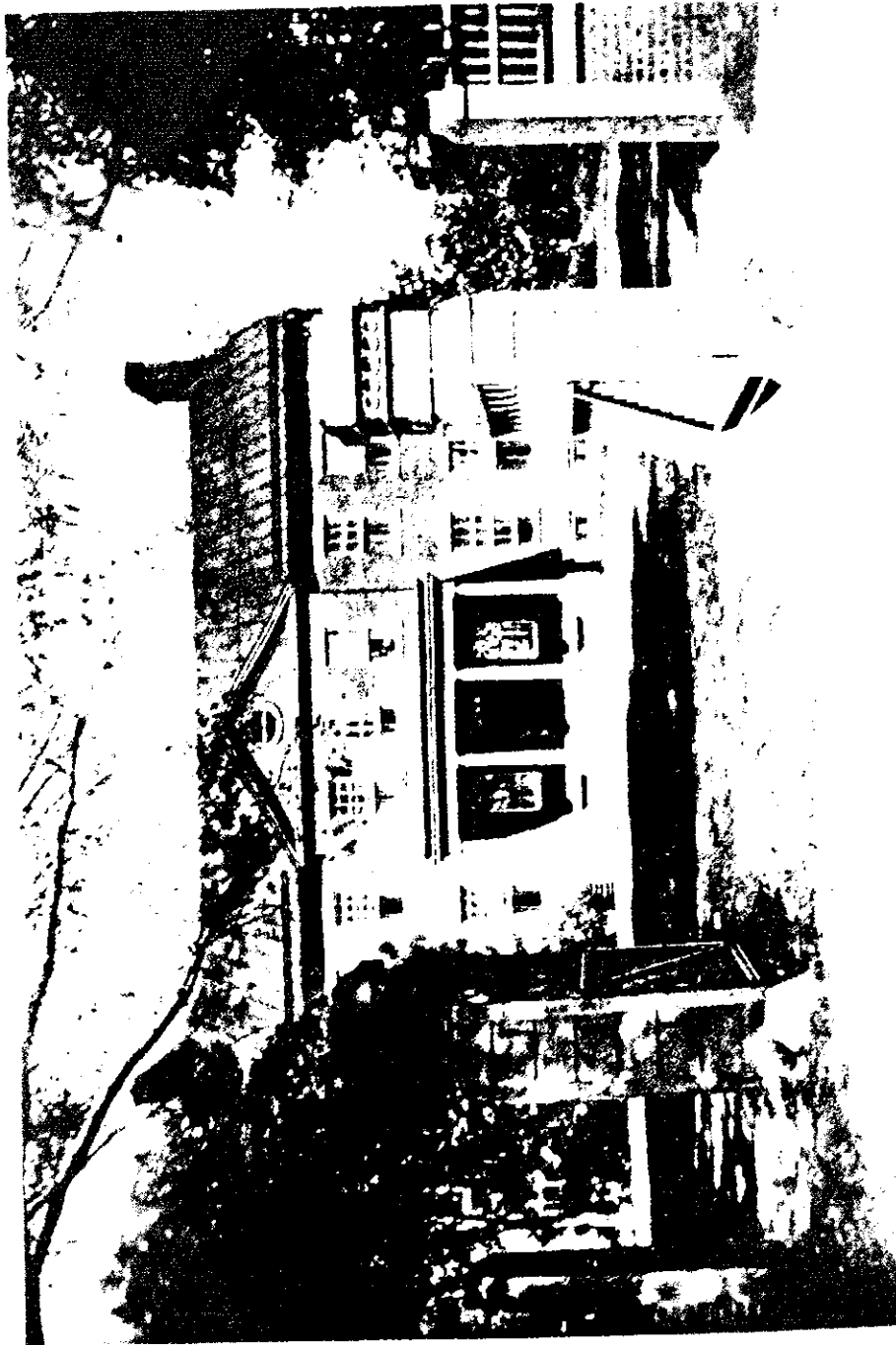


THE OLD CARROLL MANSION ON CAPITOL HILL.

Century Magazine, XXVII V5, March 1884, p. 646

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REPRODUCED
Illustration of "Duddington" from "Social Life in Early Washington" (1902)
by Mrs. A. Wharton.
ANNEX II